FINAL REPORT

19970418

MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING OF STOCKER CATTLE

March 2003
Funded by the Agri-Food Innovation Fund

Prepared by: West 21 Forage Producer Association Inc.

AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION FUND

Canada

Saskatchewan

FINAL REPORT

MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING OF STOCKER CATTLE

PROJECT 97000418
DIVERSIFIED FARMING SYSTEMS PROGRAM
AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION FUND
STRATEGIC AREA REFERENCE 9.2

March 2002

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Table of Contents

	Page
Summary	1
Technical Report	1
- Background and Objectives	1
- Project Activities and Achievements	2
- 1998	2
- 1999	3
- 2000	5
- 2001	6
Appendices	
A - 2001 Grazing Rotation	8
B - 2001 Rainfall	9
C - Steers Sorted by ADG (2001)	10
D - Steers Sorted by Breed (2001)	11
E - Steers Sorted by Owner (2001)	12
F - West 21 Newsletter May 2001	13
G - West 21 Newsletter June 2001	15

Summary – The West 21 Forage Producers Association conducted a demonstration project utilizing stocker cattle and a planned grazing system. In 1998, a site was selected, seeded to various grass-alfalfa mixtures, and subdivided with electric fencing. Extremely dry conditions in 1998 and a poor lot of certified smooth brome seed slowed establishment. Some knolls and the poorest areas of smooth brome were re-seeded in 1999. To allow for full establishment the fields were hayed in 1999. The opportunity to grow and develop greatly benefited the smooth brome fields as they increased in density. A bus tour was carried out in June. Handling facilities were constructed. A water system and trough were set up. The electric fencing system was further constructed. Grazing commenced in May of 2000, with monthly weigh days. Grazing activity ceased on August 14. The grass was used at this point but with relatively high rainfall in late summer, regrowth was significant and the pastures will be ready early for grazing in 2001. A field day attended by 35 producers was held in June and newsletters were prepared and distributed to members of the West 21 Forage Producers Association. Annual meeting of the West 21 Forage Producers Assoc. was held at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, February 27, at the Senlac Community Hall. Attendees were informed of results from the previous year, elected an executive and began making arrangements for the upcoming grazing season.
The 2001 growing season saw extremely poor growing conditions due to drought stress, however ADG for the group as a whole averaged 2.83 lbs per day. This is essentially unchanged from the previous years ADG of 2.7lbs per day. The stabile ADG even during a drought can be attributed to the fact that the forage stand was in its peak year of production having being seeded in 1998. There was sufficient carryover and rest between grazing periods to allow extensive root growth, which allowed plants to better make use of available moisture in 2001. This aspect demonstrated the effects of rest and controlled grazing to not only maximize weight gains but also as a management tool for mitigating the effects of drought.

Technical Report

Background and Objectives

The West 21 Forage Producers Association is a group of about 30 members located for the most part in the Unity, Macklin, Senlac, and Neilburg areas. One of the major objectives of the group is to explore methods of attaining optimum returns from forage and livestock based production through exchange of personal experience amongst group members, through demonstration projects, and through seminars and newsletter material. The objective of this project is to operate a management intensive grazing system, determine the potential for increased stocking capacities with a planned grazing system, and evaluate the performance of several forage varieties suitable for the region. A solar watering system will be demonstrated for its beneficial impact on maintaining dugout stability and steer performance. An electric fencing system will be employed to cross-fence the various forage types. This project will allow producers to compare the potential of management intensive grazing systems with conventional grazing and/or grain production. Steers from different breeds, calving dates, and winter-feeding systems will also be compared in terms of their performance.

Project Activities and Achievements

1998

Upon receiving approval for the project a committee of five association members was formed to select the project site. The committee decided upon a parcel of land belonging to Glen Lisch. The land is in a high traffic area, bordering the northeast corner of the town of Senlac and is in an area where a large proportion of the members are in close proximity. The quarter has a relatively reliable water supply. The potential co-operator was willing to act as the project technician and lives only a ¼ mile from the site.

The site is approximately 135 acres in total, with about 30 acres being occupied by bush and uncultivated grassy knolls. There are approximately 105 cultivated acres, which is somewhat less than originally sought. However, there were so many advantages with this site it was selected over others with more acres. With the smaller field size, it was decided to seed the land in six rather than eight different parcels. Each field contains about 17 cultivated acres. The fields include one seeded to Kirk crested wheatgrass-PS120 creeping rooted alfalfa, one of Paddock meadow bromegrass-PS120 alfalfa, two of Fleet meadow bromegrass-Peace tap rooted alfalfa, one of Carlton smooth bromegrass-PS120 alfalfa, and one of Carlton smooth bromegrass-Peace alfalfa. Although initial plans were to seed one paddock to cicer milkvetch as the legume rather than alfalfa it was decided to seed all paddocks to alfalfa. It was originally thought one seed company had developed a scarification treatment, which would dramatically increase the germination rates of cicer milkvetch. When it was discovered the scarification would lead to only moderate improvement in germination and not much seed was available it was decided to use alfalfa, since it establishes quicker.

The land was seeded in the last week of May. A pre-seeding burnoff with 0.5 L/ac of Roundup was applied. The forages were seeded along with 17 lbs/ac of 12-51-0 as a carrier. No cover crop was included. Two parcels were seeded with a no-till drill into standing stubble. When the no-till drill broke down, the remaining four paddocks were seeded with a hoe drill after cultivation and harrow packing. The entire field was harrow-packed following seeding.

A producer meeting was held on June 1 in Senlac; with 16-18-forage association members and other interested producers in attendance. A spring newsletter was prepared and sent out to all members of the association detailing progress on the project. A newspaper article was also prepared and published in spring. The Agri-Food Innovation Fund received acknowledgement of their funding support through these means.

The northwest and west-central parts of the province were stricken with severe drought through much of 1998. Prior to receiving 4" of rainfall in late June and early July, the project site had received only 0.5" of rain. April, May, and most of June were touted as the driest on record since 1918. As a result, the seeded forage did not germinate until the 4" of rain fell. Over the next 2 ½ weeks the forage began to establish although the smooth bromegrass emerged slower than the other grasses. Green foxtail was stimulated by the light rain showers in mid to late June. The light showers caused the green foxtail to germinate ahead of the seeded grasses, which did not germinate until the heavier rains 1-2 weeks later.

Consequently, the advanced growth of the green foxtail and its high density lead to a decision to spray with Achieve 80DG in mid-July to try and stop the foxtail. This cost was not anticipated but was covered in part by sponsorship of Zeneca.

The stress produced by the dry conditions reduced the effectiveness of the pre-seeding Round-up application. However, the sites cultivated and harrow packed remained free from weeds until the rainfall stimulated the green foxtail. The uncultivated sites had more weeds. A flush of lamb's quarters also followed the heavy rains in late June and early July, but had no major effect on grass establishment.

In late July a fencing bee was held with association members on the site. The electric fencing was constructed over a two day period. The two dugouts were also fenced out. Dave Lehman with Gallagher Fencing came on the first day and provided invaluable assistance and advice in constructing the fence.

After the heavy rains in late June and early July, virtually no rain was received until September. Most of July and August were hot and dry. Observations through this period indicated the forage seedlings were severely drought stressed. By late August, it looked like there would be a significant amount of seedling mortality. The more advanced seedlings appeared like they could withstand the drought. The seedlings with only 1-2 leaves appeared like they would die. However, the rains of September rejuvenated both the small and large seedlings.

All throughout the summer, observation of the forage seedings suggested the two paddocks of smooth brome seedlings were emerging more slowly than the other grasses. By fall the difference in seedling density between the smooth brome and other grasses was pronounced. This difference suggested a problem with smooth brome seedling germination might exist. To examine this suspicion, a seed sample was sent away for a germination test. The test revealed the smooth brome germination was only 63%. By contrast, a batch of meadow brome sent in for comparison had 91% germination. The seed was certified; consequently this test result is quite a surprise. The matter was discussed with the seed supplier. They sent a test result of the seed lot, which suggested it tested 87% germination in spring. Our field-tested results did not agree.

By the end of the 1998 growing season, forage establishment on the smooth brome paddocks was questionable. Two of the meadow brome paddocks established reasonably well. One paddock of meadow brome and one paddock of crested wheatgrass had good establishment in some areas and poor establishment in other places such as dry knolls and on some patches where the green foxtail became extremely dense.

Additional sponsorship obtained for the project has included: Grazing and Pasture Technology Program, Newfield Seeds, and Prairie Seeds. Monsanto donated 60 L of Round-up, Zeneca donated 8 kg of Achieve 80DG, and Delta Co-op donated $300 of fencing supplies. Streamline Industrial provided discounts on electric fencing equipment.

1999

Two newsletters were mailed out in February, 1999 detailing progress on the project and utilizing experiences from the project to relate typical costs associated with establishing a grazing system. An Association meeting was held February 24, 1999 where members discussed plans for the project for 1999 and also discussed plans for a summer bus tour.

The Agri-Food Innovation Fund received acknowledgement of their sponsorship in these initiatives.

In spring the forage seeding was evaluated regarding establishment. As suspected, some of the knolls, heavy green foxtail patches, and portions of the smooth bromegrass fields were low in grass density. These areas were re-seeded on May 20 with meadow brome by a contractor with a direct seeding drill. Parts of four fields received reseeding. The smooth brome fields were generally low in density. Consequently the pasture was not grazed with yearlings in 1999. By not grazing, the newly seeded grass could establish plus the smooth brome was able to tiller and increase in density. As a result, the forage base is in very good condition entering fall of 1999 and is expected to be in excellent shape for grazing in 2000.

Although the fields were not grazed, they were hayed by the co-operator. An estimated 143.5 tons/acre were harvested from the field, which works out to about 1.3 tons/acre of forage. Estimated production by field was:
Crested wheatgrass-creeping alfalfa - 23.5 tons
Paddock meadow brome-creeping alfalfa 27.5 tons
Fleet meadow brome-tap alfalfa 33 tons west field, 18.5 tons east field
Smooth brome-tap alfalfa 18.5 tons
Smooth brome-creeping alfalfa 22.5 tons
The fields are not all the same size and to date their exact acreages are not known. The east field of Fleet meadow brome is considerably smaller than the west field. There is a fair amount of regrowth following the hay cut and the co-operator may still obtain some fall grazing of the pasture in October.

Unlike 1998, 1999 had excellent moisture conditions. It is estimated over 12" of rain fell between late April and late August.

A bus tour was organized and conducted by the Forage Association on June 22. The tour looked at a producer grazing alfalfa with yearlings, a yearling grazing project and gravity powered watering system, a windmill watering system, and a pasture seeded to cicer milkvetch and grass. The tour generated lots of interest and 40 producers attended. Feedback from a tour evaluation was very positive.

The solar watering system was purchased and set up at the site. A watering trough was also brought in to the pasture. The trough holds about 1150 gallons and is made from a tire from the large earth moving equipment used in mining and highway construction. A handling facility was also constructed at the site this summer. Several members of the forage association assembled to construct these facilities. The facilities were constructed down by the dugout and trough. To access the water trough the livestock must go through the handling facilities. This layout will allow the cattle to become accustomed to the handling facilities and will hopefully reduce handling stress. The holding area was constructed with posts and wire stock panels. The working area was constructed with posts and plank.

The final alleyways and gates were also set up to complete the wiring for the electric fencing system. A small change was made to the fencing arrangement. It was originally planned to allow the cattle access to the low-lying area around the dugout on an on-going basis. To better utilize this area it was decided to run a short line closing this area off with a gate. With this set-up the low-lying area can function as a seventh field and can be provided periods of rest between grazing events just like the rest of the pasture.

In mid to late October, two fields in the pasture were grazed by cow/calf pairs supplying 530 cow-calf days of grazing. The grazing would have continued but the output from the solar pumping unit dropped off to the point where the cattle were removed from the pasture. Only the crested wheatgrass-alfalfa and Paddock meadow brome-alfalfa on the south end of the pasture received grazing. The intensity of grazing was moderate to light from the fields that were grazed. The remaining meadow brome fields could have supplied at least another 500+ days of grazing. The smooth brome fields may or may not have been grazed. It was felt their slower establishment might require more cautious use in the fall of 1999. The crested wheatgrass field supplied about 240 cow-calf days of grazing and the meadow brome field about 290 days.

The solar pumping system was returned to the supplier where it was determined the pump motor was defective. The pump was replaced by the company. Winter snowfall amounts have been low. With runoff conditions looking poor at present, the pump may be required to work hard in 2000.

Due to confusion regarding GST and whether the project had to pay this tax, a ruling from Revenue Canada was obtained stating goods and services obtained by the Forage Association are taxable, but are eligible for partial refunds. A copy of the ruling is obtainable from Brendan Kowalenko.

Two producer meetings and four newsletters have been sent out to members of the forage association between October 1999 and February 2000. The meetings have related to arrangements for the upcoming grazing season. A number of members have also been contacted regarding availability of steers for the grazing project. To date ten producers have confirmed five steers each to place in the grazing project. Another 5-8 may still be added. If the steers are not able to keep up with the forage, a greater number will be utilized in 2001. Rather than overstock and run out of grass too early it is preferred to stock moderately for the first grazing season. If there is surplus forage in 2000 options available include haying one paddock or fall grazing with cow-calf pairs. It is planned to leave a suitable amount of carryover forage as well.

Sponsorships for 1999 were received from Grazing and Pasture Technology Program, Ducks Unlimited, District 30 ADD Board, SaskPower (grant), PFRA (grant), and PN Feeds.

2000

The spring of 2000 saw the commencement of grazing activity following two seasons of preparation. Steers were weighed and turned out to pasture on the 15 of May. Animals were moved to pastures according to plant utilization and pasture readiness. The 55 steers exhibited a wide range of average daily gain but had a very respectable ADG of 2.7 lbs day $^{-1}$ for the group with grazing ending mid August.

A field day was held June 21, and was attended by 25 producers, most of whom were not members of the W21 Forage Producers Association. Recognition of support provided by AFIF was made.

Data collected on monthly weigh days was distributed to members via newsletters (see newsletter included).

A dry spring reduced early forage production but above average summer precipitation resulted in adequate growth to complete 2 entire cycles prior to the end of the grazing period. Relatively good growing conditions followed the removal of the steers and has resulted in good carryover for next year.

Annual meeting of the West 21 Forage Producers was held February 27, and commenced with a presentation of the results from the 2000 grazing season, open to all producers in the area. Elections of the executive from active members and business meeting then took place. Arrangements for the 2001 grazing season commenced.

2001

Total rainfall for the 2001 grazing season was only about 5 inches (appendix B). Grazing of 55 steers was initiated on May 21 about a week later than in 2000 until August 23 for total of 104 grazing days (appendix A). As in previous years grazing occurred on paddocks according to plant growth and utilization levels. ADG generally decreased from May to august as forage plants decreased growth and drought effects became more pronounced. Also, although no forage quality analysis was done, the protein would be expected to drop off over the season as well which would also have a negative impact on ADG. Steers were grouped according to ADG (appendix C) as well as by breed (appendix D) and owner (appendix E) ADG varied from a low of 1.06 to 3.72 lbs per day. ADG was highest in the Charlois X at 2.92 and lowest in the Hereford X but there was a high variability within the breeds. Charlois X varied by 1.8 lbs per day, Angus X varied by 1.9 lbs per day and Hereford X varied by 2.6 lbs per day (appendix D). The reason for this can only be related back to individual animal health or management practices prior to entering the pasture.

Overall the project was a demonstrated the relationship between grazing management and livestock performance but also the benefit of proper grazing management to drought mitigation and forage production.

Innovation Fund Acknowledgement

A producer meeting was held on June 1, 1998 in Senlac; with 16-18-forage association members and other interested producers in attendance. A second business meeting was held on February 24, 1999 in Senlac with eight producers in attendance. Numerous newsletters were prepared and sent out to all members of the association detailing progress and results from the project. A newspaper article was also prepared and published. A bus tour was organized and promoted. A field day was held June 21, 2000 and attended by 25 producers. Annual meeting of the West 21 Forage producers was held February 26, 2001, with an open information session for area producers. The Agri-Food Innovation Fund received acknowledgement of their funding support through these means.

Appendix A

GRAZING ROTATION 2001

Field 3	Grazing Start Date	Grazing End Date	# of Days
1 Crested	May 21	May 30	9
2	May 30	June 10	11
6	June 10	June 17	7
3	June 17	June 21	4
5	June 21	June 25	4
4	June 25	July 3	8
3	July 3	July 12	9
1	July 12	July 19	7
7 (dugout area)	July 19	August 7	19
5	July 28	Aug 7	10
4	August 7	August 14	7
3	August 14	August 19	5
2	August 19	August 23	4
		Total	**104**

Appendix B

RAIN FALL 2001
INCHES

Day	Amount (Inches)	Day	Amount (Inches)
May 20	0.2	July 1	0.4
May 25	0.275	July 16	0.1
May 29	0.1	July 24	1.0
May 31	0.175	July 25	0.05
June 2	0.25	July 29	0.1
June 6	0.075	Aug - No Rain	
June 9	0.3		
June 15	0.1	**Total**	**4.875**
June 17	0.8		
June 23	0.05		
June 24	0.1		
June 25	0.35		
June 26	0.25		
June 27	0.2		

Appendix C

Steers sorted by ADG (2001)

# Str	Breed	wt.(lbs) May 21	wt.(lbs) Jun 21	wt.(lbs) Jul 19	wt.(lbs) Aug 23	wt.(lbs) ADG	# Str	Breed	wt.(lbs) May 21	wt.(lbs) Jun 21	wt.(lbs) Jul 19	wt.(lbs) Aug 23	wt.(lbs) ADG
31	CharX	760	890	990	1110	3.72	1	CharX	790	920	980	1040	2.66
37	HerfX	570	750	820	920	3.72	30	CharX	630	820	830	880	2.66
2	CharX	840	1010	1110	1180	3.62	43	CharX	800	960	1020	1050	2.66
13	CharX	700	890	980	1040	3.62	17	AngusX	750	860	940	1000	2.66
32	CharX	700	880	950	1040	3.62	46	HerfX	710	860	880	960	2.66
45	CharX	820	970	1060	1160	3.62	23	HerfX	740	870	920	990	2.66
26	CharX	680	880	920	1010	3.51	22	HerfX	650	760	820	900	2.66
29	CharX	610	810	880	940	3.51	16	CharX	770	890	950	1010	2.55
34	CharX	800	940	1050	1130	3.51	54	CharX	740	840	910	980	2.55
51	CharX	590	760	840	920	3.51	55	CharX	770	870	940	1010	2.55
27	AngusX	610	780	840	940	3.51	59	HerfX	630	750	830	870	2.55
28	CharX	680	820	910	1000	3.40	24	HerfX	700	810	890	940	2.55
33	CharX	810	950	1050	1130	3.40	60	HerfX	600	700	770	840	2.55
6	CharX	580	710	780	885	3.24	18	CharX	730	820	860	960	2.45
38	AngusX	690	840	890	990	3.19	57	CharX	840	930	1010	1070	2.45
39	AngusX	560	700	760	860	3.19	56	AngusX	750	870	910	980	2.45
9	CharX	590	700	840	880	3.09	21	HerfX	680	770	860	910	2.45
44	CharX	770	900	970	1060	3.09	52	AngusX	820	900	990	1040	2.34
35	AngusX	710	840	940	1000	3.09	48	HerfX	850	960	990	1060	2.23
3	CharX	620	740	840	900	2.98	58	HerfX	670	760	800	880	2.23
40	CharX	630	790	850	910	2.98	41	CharX	750	820	910	950	2.13
36	AngusX	580	730	800	860	2.98	42	CharX	810	890	960	1010	2.13
12	HerfX	740	850	950	1020	2.98	47	AngusX	770	870	900	970	2.13
5	CharX	710	790	870	980	2.87	8	CharX	640	720	760	830	2.02
14	CharX	660	850	870	930	2.87	7	CharX	650	780	780	830	1.91
10	HerfX	600	700	810	870	2.87	11	CharX	620	700	760	800	1.91
20	CharX	780	880	950	1040	2.77	15	HerfX	690	790	830	870	1.91
49	CharX	680	810	860	940	2.77	53	AngusX	810	870	900	960	1.60
19	AngusX	840	950	1020	1100	2.77	4	HerfX	670	760	810	770	1.06
25	HerfX	810	910	980	1070	2.77							

Steers sorted by Breed (2001)

#		wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)
Str	Breed	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 19	Aug 23	ADG
31	CharX	760	890	990	1110	3.72
2	CharX	840	1010	1110	1180	3.62
13	CharX	700	890	980	1040	3.62
32	CharX	700	880	950	1040	3.62
45	CharX	820	970	1060	1160	3.62
26	CharX	660	880	920	1010	3.51
29	CharX	610	810	880	940	3.51
34	CharX	800	940	1050	1130	3.51
51	CharX	590	760	840	920	3.51
28	CharX	680	820	910	1000	3.40
33	CharX	810	950	1050	1130	3.40
6	CharX	580	710	780	885	3.24
9	CharX	590	700	840	880	3.09
44	CharX	770	900	970	1060	3.09
3	CharX	620	740	840	900	2.98
40	CharX	630	790	850	910	2.98
5	CharX	710	790	870	980	2.87
14	CharX	660	850	870	930	2.87
20	CharX	780	880	950	1040	2.77
49	CharX	680	810	860	940	2.77
1	CharX	790	920	980	1040	2.66
30	CharX	630	820	830	880	2.66
43	CharX	800	960	1020	1050	2.66
16	CharX	770	890	950	1010	2.55
54	CharX	740	840	910	980	2.55
55	CharX	770	870	940	1010	2.55
18	CharX	730	820	860	960	2.45
57	CharX	840	930	1010	1070	2.45
41	CharX	750	820	910	950	2.13
42	CharX	810	890	960	1010	2.13
8	CharX	640	720	760	830	2.02
7	CharX	650	730	780	830	1.91
11	CharX	620	700	760	800	1.91
33 strs ADG of CharX						2.92

#		wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)	wt.(lbs)
Str	Breed	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 19	Aug 23	ADG
27	AngusX	610	780	840	940	3.51
38	AngusX	690	840	950	990	3.19
39	AngusX	560	700	760	860	3.19
35	AngusX	710	840	940	1000	3.09
36	AngusX	580	730	800	860	2.98
19	AngusX	840	950	1020	1100	2.77
17	AngusX	750	860	940	1000	2.66
56	AngusX	750	870	910	980	2.45
52	AngusX	820	900	990	1040	2.34
47	AngusX	770	870	900	970	2.13
53	AngusX	810	870	900	960	1.60
11 strs ADG of AngusX						2.72
37	HerfX	570	750	820	920	3.72
12	HerfX	740	850	950	1020	2.98
10	HerfX	600	700	810	870	2.87
25	HerfX	810	910	980	1070	2.77
46	HerfX	710	860	880	960	2.66
23	HerfX	740	870	920	990	2.66
22	HerfX	650	760	820	900	2.66
59	HerfX	630	750	830	870	2.55
24	HerfX	700	810	890	940	2.55
60	HerfX	600	700	770	840	2.55
21	HerfX	680	770	860	910	2.45
48	HerfX	850	960	990	1060	2.23
58	HerfX	670	760	800	880	2.23
15	HerfX	690	790	830	870	1.91
4	HerfX	670	760	810	770	1.06
15 strs ADG of HerfX						2.52

Total Group ADG **2.83 lbs**

Appendix E

West 21 Grazing Project August Weights (Final) (2001)

Str #	Breed	May 21 wt.(lbs)	Jun 21 wt.(lbs)	Jul 19 wt.(lbs)	Aug 23 wt.(lbs)	ADG wt.(lbs)	Lot Av. wt.(lbs)
1	CharX	790	920	980	1040	2.66	T. Flad
2	CharX	840	1010	1110	1180	3.02	726
3	CharX	620	740	840	900	2.98	844
4	HerfX	670	760	810	770	1.06	922
5	CharX	710	790	870	980	2.87	974
						ADG	
						2.64	
6	CharX	580	710	780	895	3.24	W. Flad
7	CharX	650	780	780	830	1.91	612
8	CharX	640	720	760	830	2.02	722
9	CharX	590	700	840	980	3.09	794
10	HerfX	600	700	810	870	2.87	859
						ADG	
						2.63	
11	CharX	620	700	760	800	1.91	Headrick
12	HerfX	740	850	950	1020	2.98	682
13	CharX	700	890	980	1040	3.62	816
14	CharX	660	850	870	930	2.87	878
15	HerfX	690	790	830	870	1.91	932
						ADG	
						2.66	
16	CharX	770	890	950	1010	2.55	Miller
17	AngusX	750	860	940	1000	2.66	774
18	CharX	730	820	860	960	2.45	880
19	AngusX	840	950	1020	1100	2.77	944
20	CharX	780	880	950	1040	2.77	1022
						ADG	
						2.64	
21	HerfX	680	770	860	910	2.45	Moncrieff
22	HerfX	650	780	820	900	2.66	685
23	HerfX	740	870	920	990	2.66	791
24	HerfX	700	810	890	940	2.55	859
25	HerfX	810	910	980	1070	2.77	925
58	HerfX	670	760	800	880	2.23	ADG
59	HerfX	630	750	830	870	2.55	2.55
60	HerfX	600	700	770	840	2.55	
26	CharX	680	880	920	1010	3.51	Forbes
27	AngusX	610	780	840	940	3.51	686
28	CharX	680	820	910	1000	3.40	844
29	CharX	610	810	880	940	3.51	900
30	CharX	630	820	830	880	2.66	974
56	AngusX	750	870	910	980	2.45	ADG
57	CharX	840	930	1010	1070	2.45	3.07

Str #	Breed	May 21 wt.(lbs)	Jun 21 wt.(lbs)	Jul 19 wt.(lbs)	Aug 23 wt.(lbs)	ADG wt.(lbs)	Lot Av. wt.(lbs)
31	CharX	760	890	990	1110	3.72	J. Cooper
32	CharX	700	880	950	1040	3.62	756
33	CharX	810	950	1050	1130	3.40	900
34	CharX	800	940	1050	1130	3.51	996
35	AngusX	710	840	940	1000	3.09	1082
							ADG
							3.47
36	AngusX	580	730	800	860	2.98	Holden
37	HerfX	570	750	820	920	3.72	606
38	AngusX	690	840	890	990	3.19	762
39	AngusX	560	700	760	860	3.19	824
40	CharX	630	780	850	910	2.98	908
							ADG
							3.21
41	CharX	750	820	910	950	2.13	B. Cooper
42	CharX	810	890	960	1010	2.13	790
43	CharX	800	980	1020	1050	2.66	908
44	CharX	770	900	970	1060	3.09	984
45	CharX	820	970	1060	1160	3.62	1046
							ADG
							2.72
46	HerfX	710	860	880	960	2.66	R. Cooper
47	AngusX	770	870	900	970	2.13	753
48	HerfX	850	960	990	1060	2.23	875
49	CharX	680	810	860	940	2.77	908
							983
							ADG
							2.45
51	CharX	590	760	840	920	3.51	Volk
52	AngusX	820	900	990	1040	2.34	746
53	AngusX	810	870	900	960	1.60	848
54	CharX	740	840	910	980	2.55	916
55	CharX	770	870	940	1010	2.55	982
							ADG
							2.51

Total Group ADG 2.826 lbs

Str # 15 final wght estimated

Appendix F

West 21 Forage Producers Newsletter
May 2001

Our final year of the intensive grazing project located east of Senlac has started with many administration changes. The GAPT program has ended so we do not have a rangeland agrologist working with the project. Dwayne Summach has taken a job with a private company in Alberta. Todd Jorgensen, of North Battleford, rangeland agrologist with SK Ag & Food is providing technical assistance this year and will complete the year end report.

There is a new executive, president - Blake Holden, secretary-treasurer - Rob Cooper and directors - Tom Forbes and Grant Moncrieff. Glen & Brenda Lisch are managing the project again this year. In February we had a supper and meeting and bid Dwayne farewell and welcomed Todd to our group. We set the membership fee at $20 per year and to date we have ___ paid members. Membership entitles you to participate in West 21 Producers projects, access to any information learned from projects, tours, occassionaly a free supper and the newsletters. If you have not paid your membership for 2001 this will be the last newsletter you receive. Please pay membership to West 21 Forage Producers C/O Rob Cooper, Box 68, Senlac, SK, S0L 2Y0.

As this is our final year of this project, if we want to do another now would be the time to start working on one. Any and all ideas for a new project are welcome.
We had approximately 16 inches of wet snow in mid April which gave us 2-3 inches of moisture so our grass got a good start. Since then we have had very little rain and strong winds. Again this year we are using steers and weighing them monthly. Weigh day was May 21, 5 days later than last year. We had 11 producers deliver 59 steers. We weighed as the cattle were unloaded and the producers helped with their animals. Thank you to Con Kiefer for bringing his portable scale and helping to weigh again this year.

The steers were started on a crested wheat-alfalfa pasture. Growth was 6 to 8 inches. The steers now have been moved to their second paddock. The average weight of the group is 11 pounds heavier that last year but there isn't so much of a spread between the lightest and heaviest steers. This year in addition to the steer weight we have recorded a description and breed.

Our next weigh day is set for Thursday June 21 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and participate. The following is the results of the first weigh day.

West 21 Forage Producers Newsletter
May 2001

Name	Tag #	Desc	Breed	Wt. (lbs) May 21
T. Flad	1	TBrF	CharX	790
T. Flad	2	Tan	CharX	840
T. Flad	3	White	CharX	620
T. Flad	4	RWF	HerfX	670
T. Flad	5	Tan	CharX	710
Average weight of group				**726**
W. Flad	6	White	CharX	580
W. Flad	7	Tan	CharX	650
W. Flad	8	TWF	CharX	640
W. Flad	9	White	CharX	590
W. Flad	10	RWF	HerfX	600
Average weight of group				**612**
M. Headrick	11	TWF	CharX	620
M. Headrick	12	RWF	HerfX	740
M. Headrick	13	Grey	CharX	700
M. Headrick	14	TWF	CharX	660
M. Headrick	15	RWF	HerfX	690
Average weight of group				**682**
L. Millar	16	Grey	CharX	770
L. Millar	17	Black	AngusX	750
L. Millar	18	White	CharX	730
L. Millar	19	BBrF	AngusX	840
L. Millar	20	White	CharX	780
Average weight of group				**774**
G. Moncrief	21	RWF	HerfX	680
G. Moncrief	22	RWF	HerfX	650
G. Moncrief	23	RWF	HerfX	740
G. Moncrief	24	RWF	HerfX	700
G. Moncrief	25	RWF	HerfX	810
G. Moncrief	58	RWF	HerfX	670
G. Moncrief	59	RWF	HerfX	630
G. Moncrief	60	RWF	HerfX	600
Average weight of group				**685**
T. Forbes	26	Tan	CharX	680
T. Forbes	27	Red	AngusX	610
T. Forbes	28	Tan	CharX	680
T. Forbes	29	Tan	CharX	610
T. Forbes	30	Tan	CharX	630
T. Forbes	56	Red	AngusX	750
T. Forbes	57	White	CharX	840
Average weight of group				**686**

Name	Tag #	Desc	Breed	Wt. (lbs) May 21
J. Cooper	31	Tan	CharX	760
J. Cooper	32	Tan	CharX	700
J. Cooper	33	Tan	CharX	810
J. Cooper	34	Tan	CharX	800
J. Cooper	35	Black	AngusX	710
Average weight of group				**756**
B. Holden	36	BWF	AngusX	580
B. Holden	37	TWF	HerfX	570
B. Holden	38	Black	AngusX	690
B. Holden	39	Black	AngusX	560
B. Holden	40	Tan	CharX	630
Average weight of group				**606**
B. Cooper	41	TBrF	CharX	750
B. Cooper	42	Tan	CharX	810
B. Cooper	43	TWF	CharX	800
B. Cooper	44	Tan	CharX	770
B. Cooper	45	Tan	CharX	820
Average weight of group				**790**
R. Cooper	46	RWF	HerfX	710
R. Cooper	47	Black	AngusX	770
R. Cooper	48	RWF	HerfX	850
R. Cooper	49	TWF	CharX	680
Average weight of group				**753**
J. Volk	51	TWF	CharX	590
J. Volk	52	BWF	AngusX	820
J. Volk	53	Grey	AngusX	810
J. Volk	54	Tan	CharX	740
J. Volk	55	Tan	CharX	770
Average weight of group				**746**
Average of all Steers				**708**

Did you hear about the rancher/farmer who went to be a race track driver at Indianapolis and who came in last? His average speed was 6.49 m.p.h. He had to make 75 pit stops - three for fuel, two to have the tires changed, ten for coffee, three to ask what kind of grass was growing beside the track and fifty-seven to ask directions.

West 21 Forage Producers Newsletter
June 2001

Str #	Breed	May 21 wt.(lbs)	Jun 21 wt.(lbs)	ADG wt.(lbs)	Lot Av. wt.(lbs)
1	CharX	790	920	4.19	**T. Flad**
2	CharX	840	1010	5.48	726
3	CharX	620	740	3.87	844
4	HerfX	670	760	2.90	**ADG**
5	CharX	710	790	2.58	3.81
6	CharX	580	710	4.19	**W. Flad**
7	CharX	650	780	4.19	612
8	CharX	640	720	2.58	722
9	CharX	590	700	3.55	**ADG**
10	HerfX	600	700	3.23	3.55
11	CharX	620	700	2.58	**Headrick**
12	HerfX	740	850	3.55	682
13	CharX	700	890	6.13	816
14	CharX	660	850	6.13	**ADG**
15	HerfX	690	790	3.23	4.32
16	CharX	770	890	3.87	**Miller**
17	AngusX	750	860	3.55	774
18	CharX	730	820	2.90	880
19	AngusX	840	950	3.55	**ADG**
20	CharX	780	880	3.23	3.42
21	HerfX	680	770	2.90	**Moncrieff**
22	HerfX	650	760	3.55	685
23	HerfX	740	870	4.19	791
24	HerfX	700	810	3.55	**ADG**
25	HerfX	810	910	3.23	3.43
58	HerfX	670	760	2.90	
59	HerfX	630	750	3.87	
60	HerfX	600	700	3.23	
26	CharX	680	880	6.45	**Forbes**
27	AngusX	610	780	5.48	686
28	CharX	680	820	4.52	844
29	CharX	610	810	6.45	**ADG**
30	CharX	630	820	6.13	5.12
56	AngusX	750	870	3.87	
57	CharX	840	930	2.90	

Str #	Breed	May 21 wt.(lbs)	Jun 21 wt.(lbs)	ADG wt.(lbs)	Lot Av. wt.(lbs)
31	CharX	760	890	4.19	**J. Cooper**
32	CharX	700	880	5.81	756
33	CharX	810	950	4.52	900
34	CharX	800	940	4.52	**ADG**
35	AngusX	710	840	4.19	4.65
36	AngusX	580	730	4.84	**Holden**
37	HerfX	570	750	5.81	606
38	AngusX	690	840	4.84	762
39	AngusX	560	700	4.52	**ADG**
40	CharX	630	790	5.16	5.03
41	CharX	750	820	2.26	**B. Cooper**
42	CharX	810	890	2.58	790
43	CharX	800	960	5.16	908
44	CharX	770	900	4.19	**ADG**
45	CharX	820	970	4.84	3.81
46	HerfX	710	860	4.84	**R. Cooper**
47	AngusX	770	870	3.23	720
48	HerfX	850	960	3.55	875
49	CharX	680	810	4.19	**ADG**
					3.95
51	CharX	590	760	5.48	**Volk**
52	AngusX	820	900	2.58	746
53	AngusX	810	870	1.94	848
54	CharX	740	840	3.23	**ADG**
55	CharX	770	870	3.23	3.29

Total Group ADG 4.04 lbs

Hello again, just a short update on the West 21 Forage project. The steers have now been moved through all the project paddocks. The growth is good as we have had some showers here. From May 25 to July 2 we had 3.4 inches of rain. We weighed the steers on June 21 with excellent gains posted for the month. We had a good turn out to help with the weighing. We haven't had any problems with the pump or fence equipment to report, although Glen did mention that the area around the water trough is eroding.

We are looking for suggestions for future projects, if we are going to stay active as the West 21 Forage Producers. If anyone has any ideas let us know.

The next weigh day is Thursday July 19 at 6 p.m., hope to see you then.

Blake